

S.M.I.L.E. GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2012; SMILE STATION

[www.SellwoodMoreland.org](http://www.SellwoodMoreland.org)

- as well as -

[www.SMILerecords.org](http://www.SMILerecords.org)

Officers and Directors present: Vice President Paul Notti, Treasurer Pat Hainley, and Secretary Eric Norberg; and Directors Nancy Walsh, Bradley Heintz, and Ellen Burr.

In the absence of President Mat Millenbach, Vice President Paul Notti called the monthly SMILE General Public Meeting to order at 7:31 pm, noting the presence of a quorum, and calling the three police officers present to the front of the room for a police report on the neighborhood. (We had commented that we had not had a police report for months, which apparently sparked this turnout.) Present were local patrol officer David Sessum, from whom we have heard before; his supervisor Sgt. Tim Sessions from Central Precinct downtown, and Sgt. Craig S. Morgan, also from Central Precinct.

Officer Sessum introduced the other officers, then told the meeting that there is still considerable concern about the number of car break-ins here, and he again advised, "don't leave anything visible in a parked and locked car" -- criminals will break in to get it, even if it turns out to be worthless! In particular, he said, do NOT leave a garage door opener in your car, unless it is built into the vehicle -- when thieves break in, if they get that, they can walk right into your house.

Sgt. Sessions revealed that Chief Reese would like to see Southeast Precinct reopened -- at least on a limited basis, at first. To an attendee concerned about traffic issues at S.E. Milwaukie Avenue at Bybee Boulevard, he advised contacting Captain Dave Hendricks in the Traffic Division about it, and he added that issues can also be called in to 503/823-SAFE.

Mark Wilson, a local resident with Portland Parks, arose to announce that the Springwater Trail through Oaks Bottom will NOT be closed this summer for the long-planned culvert replacement project -- that's still a year or two off -- but work will be done this summer on the Bluff Trail, to improve and repair it, so that will be closed in August and into September. Parks will also be repairing the trail in Sellwood Riverfront Park.

At this point, Vice President Notti asked for a review of the May General Public Meeting minutes. Phyllis Boyer moved they be accepted as submitted, and Mark Wilson seconded the motion, which then carried without opposition.

Robert McCulloch, President of the Eastmoreland Neighborhood

Association, was present to report briefly on issues he believed to be of common interest to SMILE, and said he had invited SMILE President Mat Millenbach to make a similar presentation to the ENA. McCulloch said ENA is concerned about the Bybee Boulevard MAX light rail station not having any dedicated parking. He added that ENA does not want a bus stop at the top of the bridge (although SMILE is on record as wanting one there). He said he would be at OLCC tomorrow, June 7, "to continue the discussion about a liquor license for Casa Diablo" -- on McLoughlin, in Sellwood, just south of Tacoma Street.

With McCulloch's permission, an audience member, Dick Laughlin, arose to criticize the TriMet plans for the MAX station access at the top of the Bybee Bridge -- he finds it "onerous" that the station elevator access on the top of the bridge's sidewalk would not be ADA-compliant, since the bridge grade is 8%, while the federal rule for maximum grade, for ADA access, is 5%. He said, also, that there is "not enough real estate for a TriMet station there [below the bridge]." He also fears black-tar heroin dealers congregating at the station, he said.

McCulloch was invited to resume his report by Notti, whereupon he said that ENA still opposes putting any wireless antenna on the top of a public wooden utility pole in Eastmoreland, and he said T-Mobile Wireless is still trying to do that. There is a hearing on it on June 28. Concerning land use issues, McCulloch thinks the City Council is "creating problems" for the city neighborhoods, and he hopes for a joint meeting of the SMILE and ENA Land Use Committees. Tina Osterink volunteered that she is concerned with the reported possibility of coal trains passing through Portland, and McCulloch agreed that he was concerned about that too.

Paul Notti then reported that CH2M Hill engineers and TriMet are to meet with SMILE on MAX light rail elements supported by SMILE -- Jennifer Koozer, and SMILE representative Teresa Pucik, will be involved with that. He added that at the OLCC meeting tomorrow (June 6) the Commission will vote on the Casa Diablo liquor license application; SMILE has taken a position on it, and will be present at the hearing.

Next to appear were Kyle Chisec, PDOT Capital Projects Manager, and Scott Batson, P.E., PDOT Traffic Safety Programs, who were appearing to report on the "19th Avenue Bicycle Greenway". "Mitchell to Insley [at the north end] will be the hardest challenge", he said, and there is a plan to use a flashing pedestrian crossing device at Insley Street. Cyclists will travel Insley between Milwaukie and 20th, and the Greenway will run on 20th between Insley and Reedway, when it will shift from 20th to 19th to continue south through Westmoreland and Sellwood, the men explained, using maps. There would be a new flashing pedestrian signal for crossing Bybee Boulevard at 19th

-- and a signal is also needed at Tacoma at 19th, with two different types under consideration. To slow traffic on 19th from 25 to 20 MPH for the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians, there are plans to use speed bumps on 19th every 350 feet -- apparently, between Reedway and Ochoco Streets.

The two PDOT spokesmen pointed out that the Greenway needs to be in operation by the time the Oaks Bottom culvert replacement project gets underway in the summer of 2013 or 2014, as a detour for the Springwater Trail through Oaks Bottom. Questions and comments were then received from attendees; Mary Chris Mass again reported that bicyclists using Umatilla Street "yell" as they pass her house, but did not disclose what they yell, or if they yell anywhere else on Umatilla; the spokesmen pointed out that the closing of the "Sellwood Gap" on the Springwater Trail will reroute bicyclists off Umatilla, and that should help resolve her issue. There was an extensive discussion of needed or unneeded speed bumps on 19th and/or other nearby major roads. PDOT is testing speed bump options on major transportation roads that already have them, in connection with the Fire Bureau -- over whether they should be removed, or a different type used. But, S.E. 17th is not a street concerning which changes in speed bumps is being contemplated. Mike Pucik felt 18th or 17th would be a better route for the Greenway than 19th, but PDOT has determined that 19th is the lowest-traffic-level street in the neighborhood, making it the safest for bicyclists and pedestrians on the new Greenway.

Paul Notti advised those present who are concerned about the Greenway, about which SMILE has had a positive Board vote of support, to consult the SMILE Board about possibly changing elements of its previously-voted approval. Teresa Pucik said that speed bumps on 19th are unnecessary, but that they are needed on 20th to slow cut-through traffic. Scott said that more stop signs may be placed on streets parallel to 19th to address that, and that would include 20th. "If traffic shifts, due to projects like this, city standards require mitigating the effects of such shifts."

Next (and last) on the meeting's agenda was a discussion of the Moreland Presbyterian Church's homeless overnighting plan, led by Dawn Anderson. She recounted that on May 2, neighbors of the church got a flyer from the church, expressing its intent to participate in the new city homeless overnighting program. She consulted the city about this, and was told that the City Council, which approved the trial program, wants it to move forward, and that any code violation issues that might arise from it would be overlooked. She gathered the neighbors to organize a meeting at the church on June 4. [She stated that all neighbors of the church have concerns about this program, but at the meeting held at the Church on June 4, at which at least three SMILE Board Members were present, a show of hands

requested by the meeting facilitators showed that roughly a third present favored the plan, a third were interested but undecided, and a third were opposed to it, and a second show of hands indicated that most at the meeting lived within a few blocks of the church.]

Ms. Anderson said specific neighbor concerns include the need for the church's residential neighbors to police the church program for the church, since there is to be nobody from the church present during any of the hours in which the JOIN-designated and enrolled homeless woman (with or without children) would be present to sleep in her car, with a key-locked porta-potty and a trash can nearby. She pointed out that virtually all attendees, of all opinions, at the June 6 meeting indicated in a hand vote that they would prefer the church shelter the homeless woman INSIDE the church, rather than making the homeless guest sleep in her car, and would prefer to have a volunteer or church representative on hand in the church all night to supervise and protect the homeless guest. The pastor made comments suggesting that he is not open to that option.

Anderson says she believes the City Council passed this plan without resident input (which another attendee who is familiar with the Portland City Council said is standard practice in this sort of action, and thus did not represent an attempt to avoid resident input). Anderson said she wanted SMILE to take a position in opposition to the church plan, and said she had a motion to make.

A man named Ken came forward to read comments from the church, Commissioner Fish, and St. Vincent DePaul (which he said runs the homeless program in Eugene to which this one has been compared, although there are significant differences in the details). He said the Eugene program started in 1995, and drew many police calls in its first years; today, of some 36 sites used, there are now 600-700 poolice calls per year, of which 100-150 require police backup, he said. Dawn then offered her motion, which Mike Pucik offered to second. [Motion to follow, in these minutes, after discussion, leading to modifications.]

Paul Notti said that the SMILE plan is to gather criteria for a debate and motion by the Board, which would then carry weight with the city. Pat Hainley pointed out to the large assembled crowd that "the Board heard you at the last Board meeting, and we gave you a sympathetic hearing," so Board action is likely. Teresa Pucik said "the membership can vote tonight, and we can reframe the motion as an advisory for the Board".

Carson Whitehead arose and said he personally favors the church participation in this pilot program. Another man arose and suggested that the program has its merits, but he feels the site is inappropriate. Bradley Heintz asked if hosting this program inside the church was considered at the meeting Monday?

Anderson said yes, but the church appeared to reject it. Paul Notti said that perhaps the focus for the Board should be on whether there is a better solution? There appears to be broad neighborhood support for housing the guest within the church overnight, supervised and secure, he pointed out.

A woman named Marilyn, who apparently was with Dick Laughlin, said that the problem is that there is no available housing for the 1,700 living in their cars here each night; this city program does not address that problem. Tina Osterink asked, "Is this a good policy? How will this work for the guests and neighbors?" Tina lives across from the church, and, she added, the homeless sleep there already.

Mike Pucik commented, "the problem is having parents having to make their babies sleep in cars." And he asked for a vote on the motion. A woman in the audience responded that a vote tonight could have the effect of painting the church into a corner and locking it into its current position. Another attendee said that a residential location seems inappropriate within the city criteria for the program, and quoted from the City Council action, "not all sites may be appropriate in close proximity to residential property".

A man who said he used to live in Eugene said that some homeless are military veterans, but Portland needs to look into the Eugene program's details if it is going to use the Eugene program as a template. There followed further general discussion going over all these points, along the same lines.

Anderson then presented the proposed wording of her motion:

Moved, that the SMILE Board support our opposition to the current Moreland Presbyterian Pilot Program and [that] the President of SMILE write a letter to the Pastor notifying the church of [SMILE's] position.

Mike Pucik confirmed his second for this motion. Paul Notti conducted a hand count on the vote: 30 yes, 1 no, 8 abstain. The motion passed. Anderson then presented her second motion, which, after a commenter named Alice pointed out that it should not force SMILE to oppose a city program to help the homeless, was, with Anderson's consent, reworded slightly to read as follows:

Moved, that the President of SMILE write a letter to the City Council Members, Mayor, Housing Board, etc., notifying them of SMILE's opposition to the program as written, and to advocate for a better solution; and of SMILE's opposition to the specific site in Westmoreland; and to ask that going forward the City notify any neighborhood association involved when a program like this has been requested in that neighborhood, to prevent miscommunication.

A resident who identified himself as Grant Boissepent [who, afterward it appeared, did not sign on the sign-in sheets] seconded the motion.

Paul Notti again did a standing handcount of the subsequent vote: 31 yes, 1 no, 7 abstain. Motion passed.

Paul said that the Board would respond to these motions, as requested, at the June Board meeting on June 20. The church said at the June 4 meeting at the church that it would not make the final decision about its participation in this city program until July, so performing the debate and response at the scheduled meeting should be satisfactory, and would help ensure full Board participation.

There being no other business, Teresa Pucik moved the meeting be adjourned, and Kathleen Miller seconded the motion, which carried with no apparent opposition at 9:40 pm.

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**NOTE:** Since the first Wednesday of July falls on the 4th this year -- a national holiday -- the July General Public Meeting has been cancelled. The July Board meeting will be on July 18, and the next General Public Meeting will occur on August 1.